**Easter Day Worship**

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*The Service of Light*

Christ yesterday and today,

**the beginning and the end,**

Alpha and Omega,

all time belongs to him,

and all ages;

**to him be glory and power,**

**through every age and for ever. Amen.**

This is the day when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life. Throughout the world Christians celebrate the awesome power of God.

As we hear his word and proclaim all that God has done,

we can be confident that we shall share his victory over death and live with him for ever.

*The president lights the Easter Candle, saying*

**May the light of Christ, rising in glory,**

**banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.**

 **The Easter Acclamation**

*A minister says*

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

*an appropriate Easter hymn is sung, during which all our candles are lit*

 **The Collect**

Let us pray that we may walk the risen life of Christ in glory.

*Silence is kept.*

God of glory,

by the raising of your Son

you have broken the chains of death and hell:

fill your Church with faith and hope;

for a new day has dawned

and the way to life stands open

in our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*The Liturgy of the Word*

 **Reading(s)**

*After each reading*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

 **Sermon**

*Re-affirmation of Baptismal Vows*

*The president addresses the congregation*

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him. Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

**I reject them.**

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

**I renounce them.**

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

**I repent of them.**

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

**I turn to Christ.**

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

**I submit to Christ.**

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

**I come to Christ.**

*The president stands before the water of baptism and says*

Praise God who made heaven and earth,

**who keeps his promise for ever.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ

was baptized in the river Jordan,

we thank you for the gift of water

to cleanse us and revive us.

**Saving God, give us life.**

We thank you that through the waters of the Red Sea

you led your people out of slavery

to freedom in the Promised Land.

**Saving God, give us life.**

We thank you that through the deep waters of death

you brought your Son,

and raised him to life in triumph.

**Saving God, give us life.**

Bless this water, that your servants who are washed in it

may be made one with Christ in his death and in his resurrection, to be cleansed and delivered from all sin.

**Saving God, give us life.**

Send your Holy Spirit upon them,

bring them to new birth in the household of faith

and raise them with Christ to full and eternal life;

for all might, majesty, authority and power are yours,

now and for ever. Amen.

**Saving God, give us life.**

 **Profession of Faith**

*The people reaffirm their faith.*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,**

**creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the Virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried;**

**he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;**

**he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic Church,**

**the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Each member of the congregation may renew their commitment to Christ by going to the water and making the sign of the cross with it on their forehead.*

*The president says*

Almighty God,

we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith

with all who have been baptized in your name.

Keep us faithful to our baptism,

and so make us ready for that day

when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith,

that you may be rooted and grounded in love

and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit. **Amen.**

 **The Peace**

We are the body of Christ.

In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.

Let us then pursue all that makes for peace

and builds up our common life. **Amen.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*Prayers*

*The Prayers should include the Lord’s Prayer.*

Gathering our prayers and praises into one,

as our Saviour has taught us, so we pray

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours**

**now and for ever. Amen.**

*Conclusion*

*The congregation accompanies the first three responses with a sweep of the arm towards a cross, as if throwing the objects of the prayer; the final response is a sweep of the arms towards heaven.*

All our problems

**we send to the cross of Christ.**

All our difficulties

**we send to the cross of Christ.**

All the devil’s works

**we send to the cross of Christ.**

All our hopes

**we set on the risen Christ;**

and the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**